

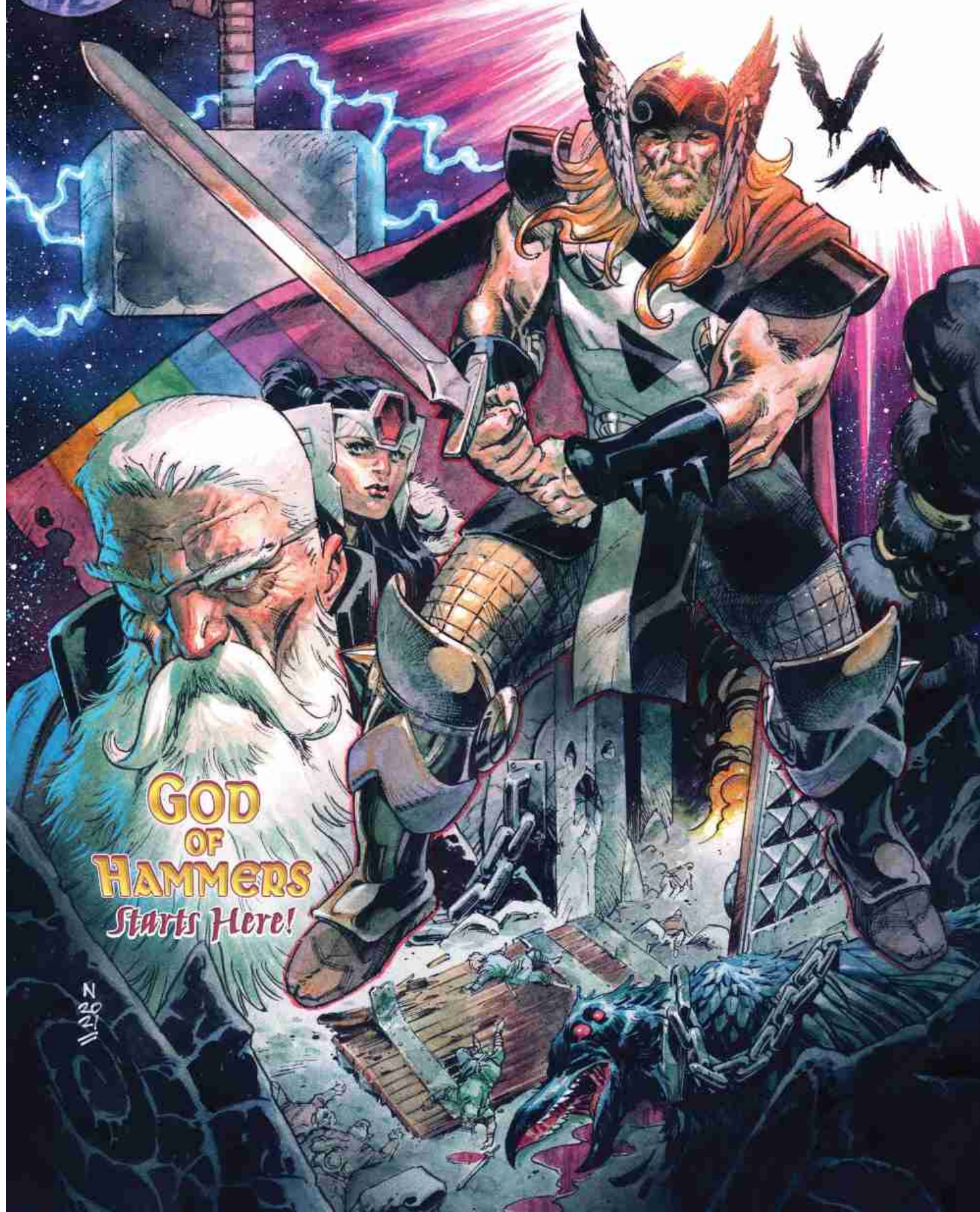
MARVEL

19

LGY#745

DONNY CATES
NIC KLEIN
MATT WILSON

THOR



**GOD
OF
HAMMERS**
Starts Here!

11282

First...

...there were
the titans.

The elder gods.
The ancient
giants.

The Black Winter.
The God Tempest.
The King in Black.
The Phoenix.

The dark.
The light.

The blood.

The fire.

And, oh...

...how they
raged.

BOOM

And born from
the forge of
that rage...

...annihilation.





But then...

...as it always
has...



...the grand cosmic
wheel turned again.

Ever churning. Ever
grinding against the
gilded mill of eternity.



As the seeds of that titanic
rage, a billion years gone...



...began...

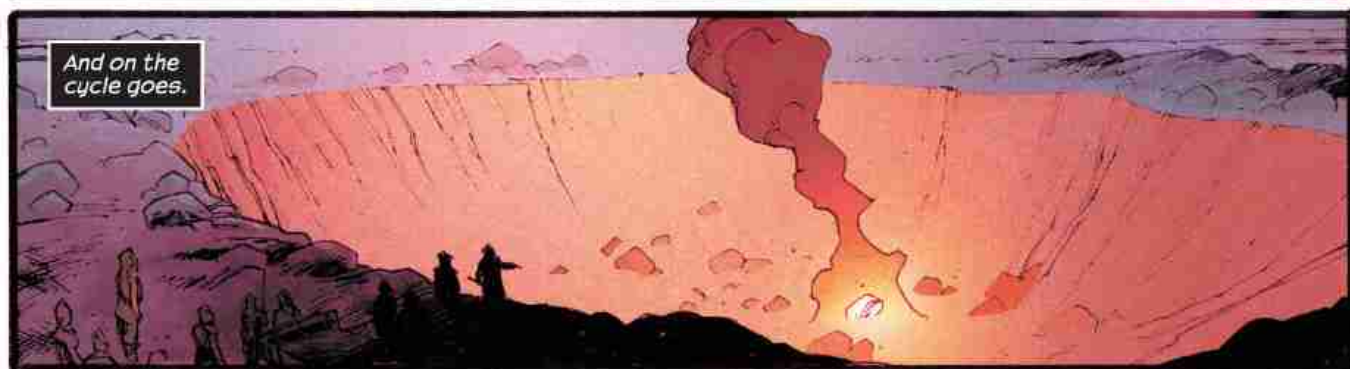
...ever so
slowly...

...to
blossom.

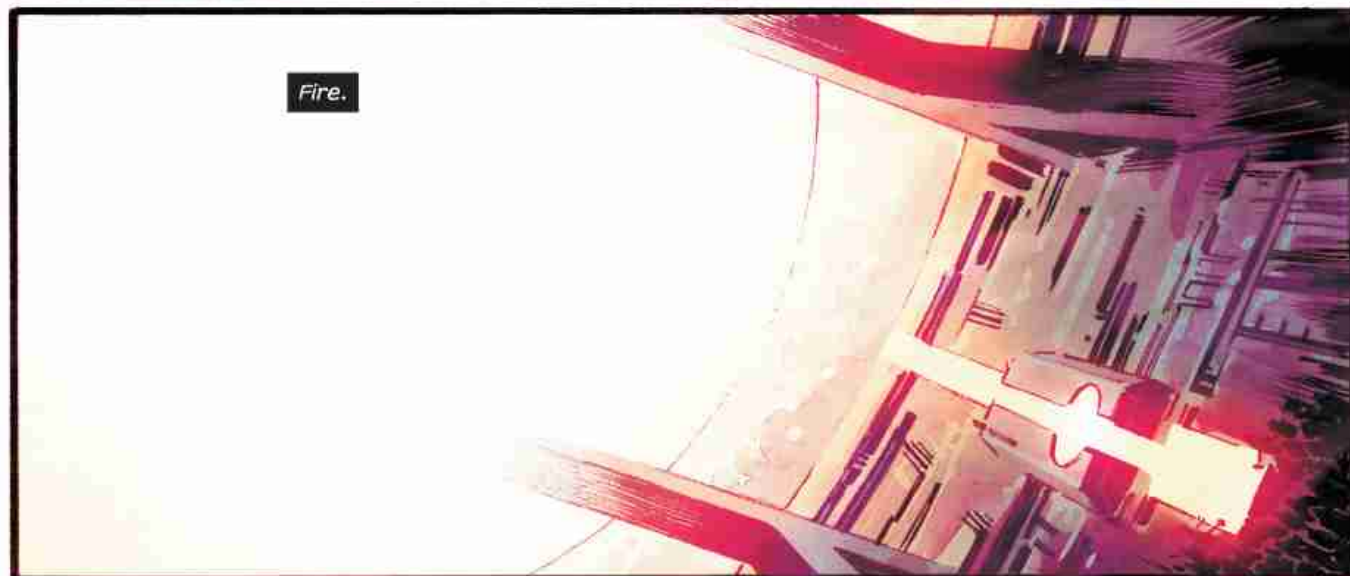
NIDAVELLIR.
UNTOLD EONS AGO...



And on the
cycle goes.



Fire.



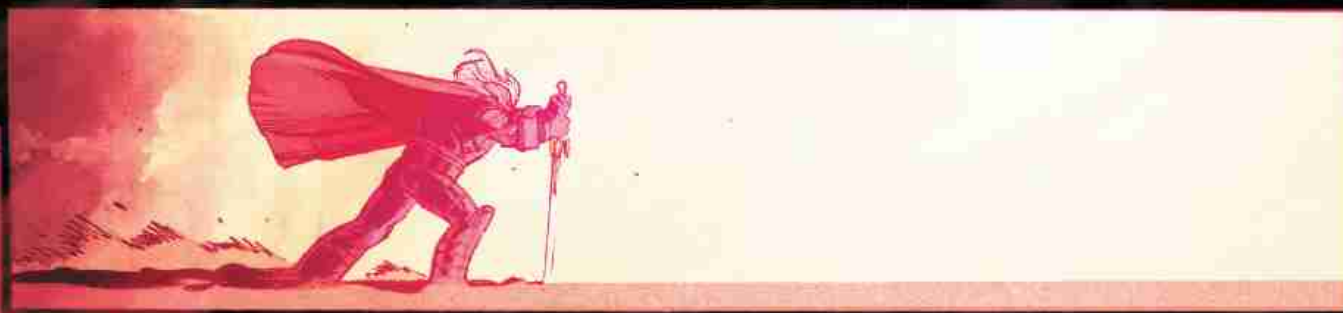
Gods.



Rage.



Annihilation.

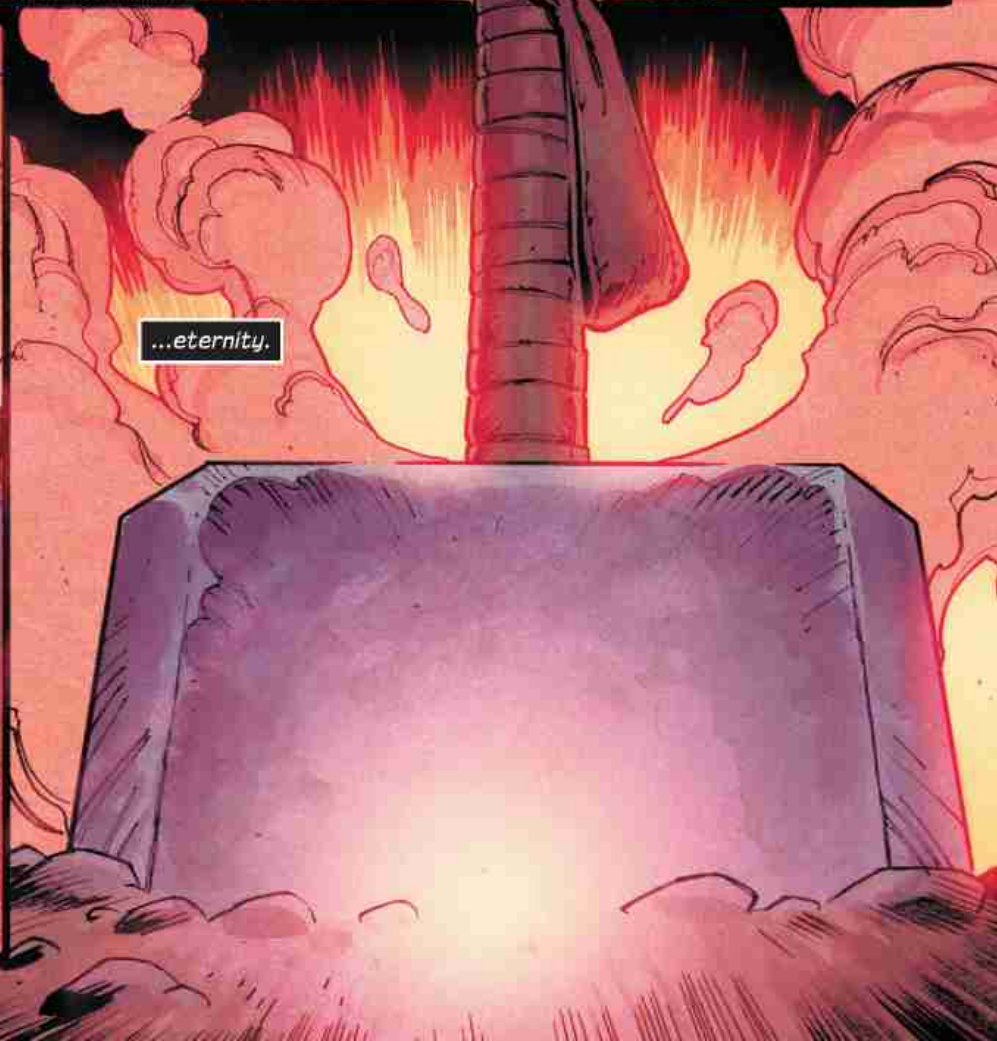


And then...

...born from
entropy...



...eternity.



But in the world
of gods and
titans...

...as we all
well know...

...not even
eternity can
last forever.

Recently, on the eve of
the War of the Realms,
the Mighty Thor, Jane
Foster, faced down the
unstoppable Mangog.

She threw the
great dark beast
into the sun.

Where Mjolnir the
Smasher was
destroyed.

But before long,
once again, from
the fury of titans...

...fire
rained.

And now...

...born from
that fire
once more...

...rage.



THOR

“GOD OF HAMMERS” PART ONE OF FIVE

THOR IS THE GOD OF THUNDER AND ALL-FATHER
OF ASGARD.

OF LATE, HE HAS HAD TROUBLE WITH HIS
HAMMER, MJOLNIR—SOMETIMES IT IS TOO HEAVY
FOR HIM TO LIFT, AND OTHER TIMES, PEOPLE ARE
ABLE TO LIFT IT DESPITE THE FACT THAT NO ONE
BUT THOR SHOULD BE ABLE TO.

DECIDING MJOLNIR’S “DISOBEDIENCE” MUST
BE BECAUSE HE IS NOW ASGARD’S KING AND NO
LONGER ITS WARRIOR, THOR LEFT THE UNRULY
HAMMER WITHIN AVENGERS MOUNTAIN SO THAT
HE COULD FOCUS ON BEING A BETTER KING.
BUT NOW THE AVENGERS REPORT THAT MJOLNIR
HAS BEEN STOLEN.

THOR HAS TASKED HIS MASTER OF SPIES—THROG,
THE FROG OF THUNDER—WITH TRACKING THE
HAMMER DOWN.

DONNY CATES
WRITER

NIC KLEIN
ARTIST

MATT WILSON
COLOR ARTIST

VC’s JOE SABINO
LETTERER & DESIGNER

NIC KLEIN
COVER ARTIST

GARY FRANK & BRAD ANDERSON;
MAHMUD ASRAR;
EMA LUPACCHINO & DAVE McCAIG
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

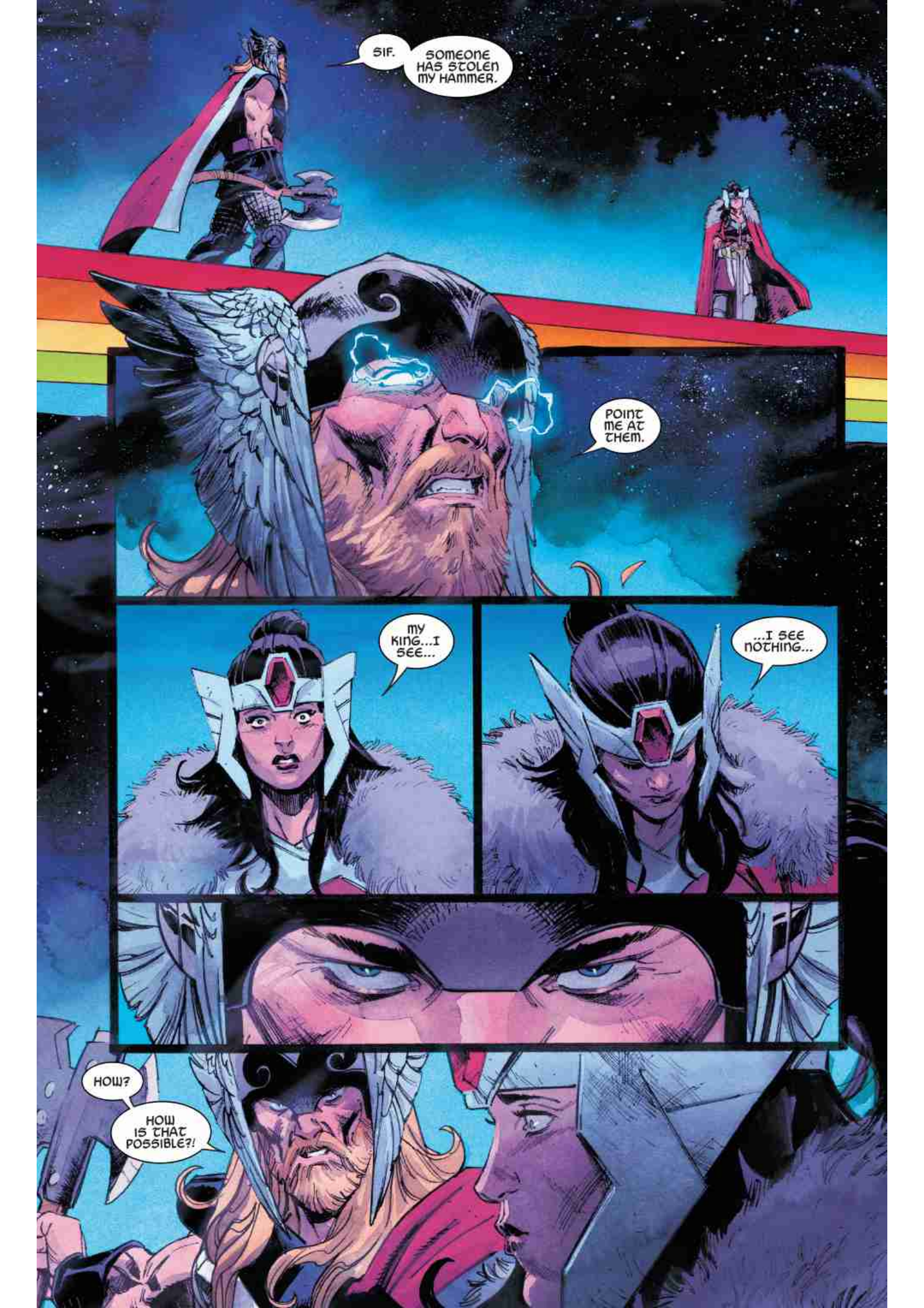
KAT GREGOROWICZ & KAITLYN LINDTVEDT
ASSISTANT EDITORS

ALANNA SMITH
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

WIL MOSS
EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THOR CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY



SIF.

SOMEONE
HAS STOLEN
MY HAMMER.

POINT
ME AT
THEM.

my
KING...I
SEE...

...I SEE
NOTHING...

HOW?

HOW
IS THAT
POSSIBLE?!



THOR, RESPECTFULLY...
SOMEONE THIS POWERFUL...

...WHO DEFILES
EVEN MY EYES...
WHO COULD STEAL
MJOLNIR...



THOR...YOU ARE KING. YOU
HAVE A MASTER OF WAR
FOR THIS VERY
REASON...

AND BILL IS
BACK NOW, SO
LET HIM DO HIS JOB.
YOU ARE MEANT
TO REIGN.



THERE ARE
THINGS HERE
THAT REQUIRE
YOUR ATTENTION.
THINGS THAT
ONLY A KING
MAY--

THERE IS A
BOOK. A GREAT
TOME OF KINGS. ITS
PAGES HIDDEN FROM
ALL BUT THE
RIGHTFUL KING
OF ASGARD.

WITHIN ITS
PAGES, IT TELLS
OF THE PAST, OF
MY FATHER AND MY
GRANDFATHER BEFORE
HIM. OF THE TITANS
THAT FORMED THIS
REALM AND ALL
THE REST...



AND IT
ALSO SPEAKS
OF PROPHECY.
OF THINGS
TO COME.

I HAVE
BEEN READING
IT FOR DAYS. I
HAVE NOT EATEN
OR SLEPT.

IT SPEAKS OF
A GREAT STORM.
THE LIKES OF WHICH
WE HAVE NEVER
SEEN. BROUGHT
FORTH BY
MJOLNIR.

WIELDED BY
A BEING KNOWN
AS THE GOD OF
HAMMERS.



THE BOOK
SAYS THIS BEING
WILL KILL THE
GOLDEN KING
OF ASGARD.

"AND
HIS SOUL WILL BE
TRAPPED IN THE FIRE
FOREVERMORE..."



I WILL NOT
LET THIS BOOK
TELL ME HOW
TO DIE. I
FORBID IT.

THOR...
I HAD NO
IDEA...

HOW
COULD YOU?



NOW, IF YOU
ARE TRUE AND
THERE ARE THINGS
HERE THAT REQUIRE
ATTENTION...



...GO PAY
ATTENTION
TO THEM.

FOR IF YOU
CANNOT SEE
WHAT I NEED YOU
TO SEE, PERHAPS
YOUR EYES ARE
BETTER CAST AT
BUSINESS NOT
MY OWN.



THOR...
YOU ARE NOT
YOURSELF. I KNOW
THE THEFT OF
MJOLNIR HAS--

SIF.



DO I NEED
TO RELIEVE
YOU OF YOUR
SWORD?



no...

...my
king.



VERY
WELL...



"...TAKE ME TO
THE OLD MAN."

There is no earthly
translation for the
arena before you.

No common tongue
that agrees on its
origin.

Some claim it a remnant of a long-
lost civilization, hunted down,
dissected and scattered in the
early days of Knull's campaign
of blood across the stars.

Some claim it to be sentient.
Somehow...alive still. Its
great fingers moaning and
curling in the empty freezing
wind of the abyss.

Grasping in the dark for a
body that has long passed
its reach. Crying out for
ears long dead and deaf.

All can agree that it is a place
no man should ever know.
That to see it...to know it...
is to never sleep again.

It is home to the most vile,
vicious and barbaric acts
in any realm charted or
unknown.

It has been known
as the Gauntlet.

The Black Hand
of God.

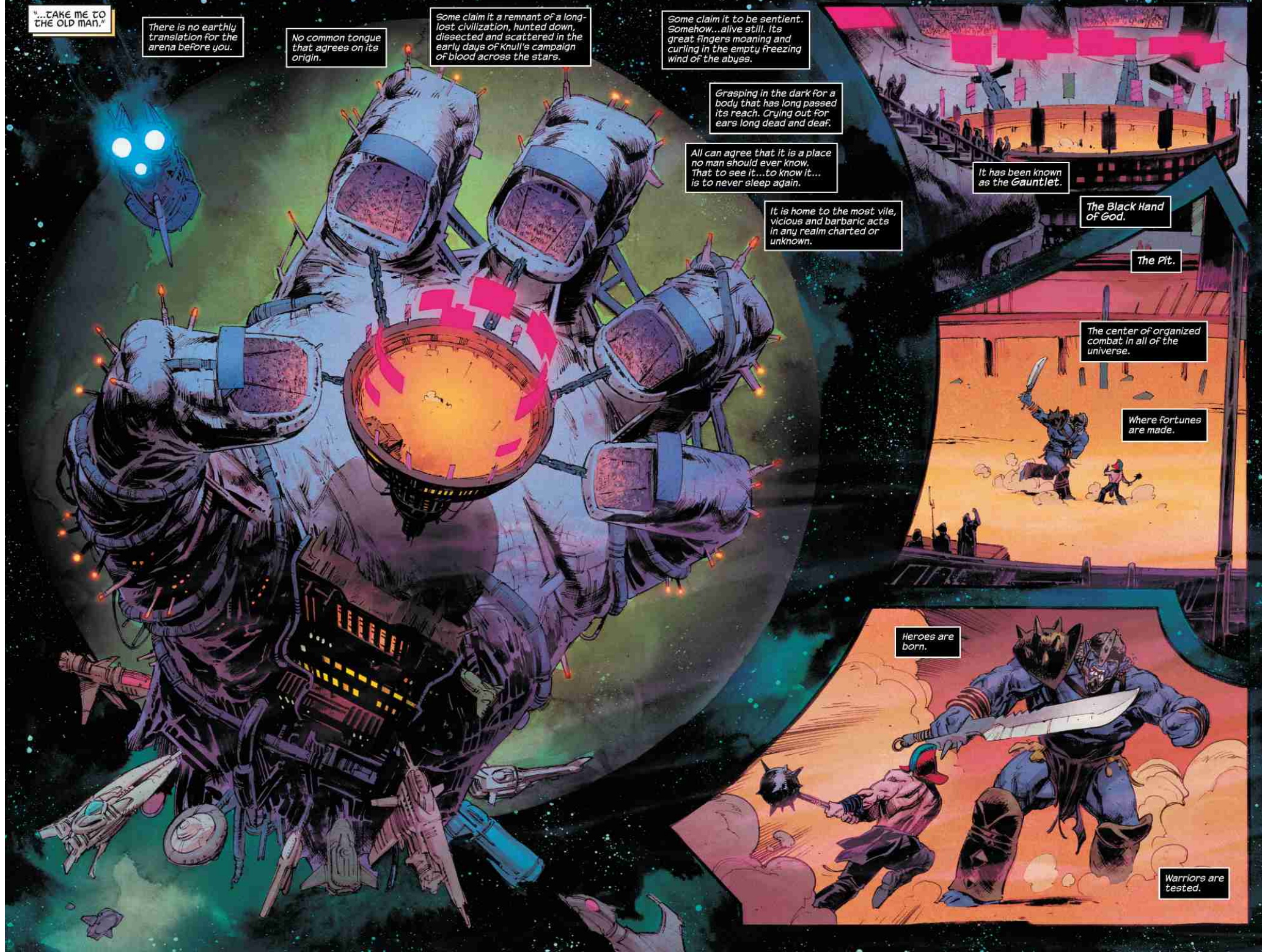
The Pit.

The center of organized
combat in all of the
universe.

Where fortunes
are made.

Heroes are
born.

Warriors are
tested.



And titans fall.

AGH!!!

IS...IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE THEN, BEAST?!

FOR ODIN HAS NOT BEGUN TO FEEL--

QUIET NOW!!!

KRAK

UGH!

DIE NOW!

FWOO!!!





BOO!!!

LOST
ME FIFTY
HIDES, YOU
BASTARD!

LOUSY
CHEATING
GODS!!!

SHOULD
I EVEN
ASK?

YOUR
DAMNED SISTER!
SHE JUST LEFT
ME HERE TO--

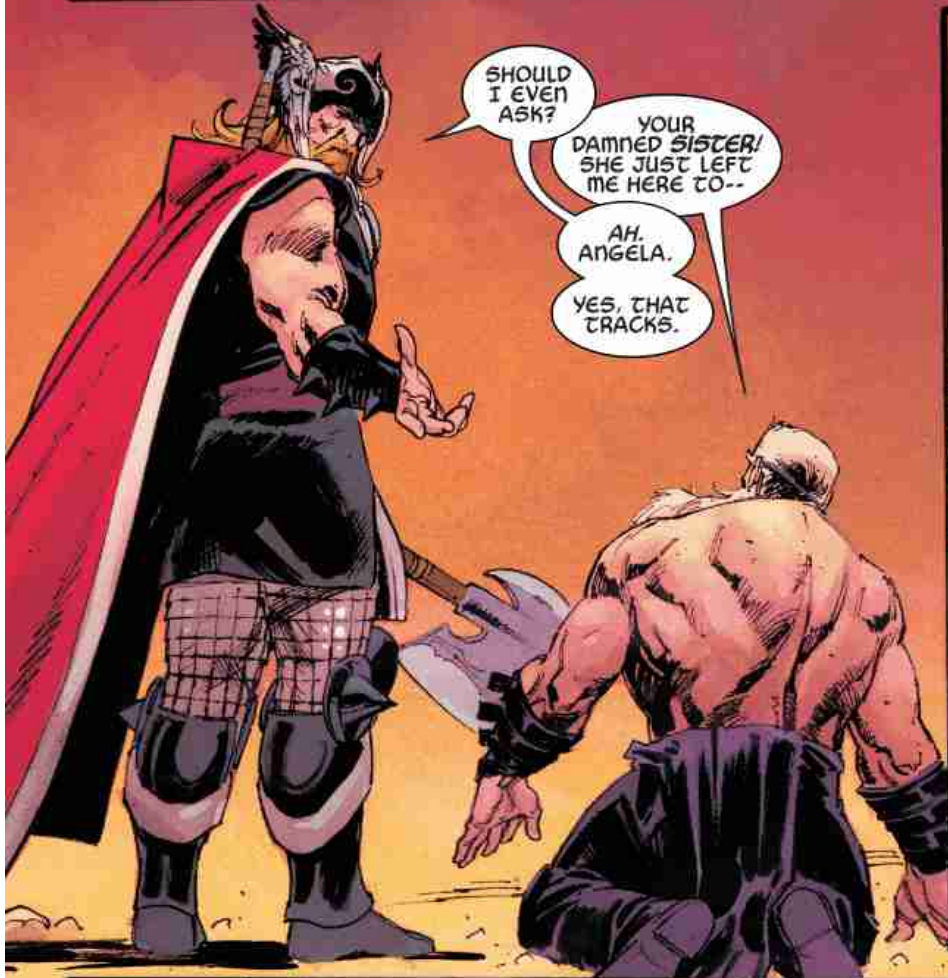
AH.
ANGELA.

YES, THAT
TRACKS.

I NEED
YOUR HELP.
MJOLNIR HAS--

BEEN
STOLEN. YES,
I'M AWARE.
EVERYONE
IS.

YOU... WERE
YOU PLANNING ON
COMING TO MY
AID, THEN?



YOU MADE IT
VERY CLEAR
WHERE WE
STAND, BOY.

WHY
WOULD I--

BEHIND
YOU.



SIGH
OF
COURSE...



"...WILL YOU
HELP ME WITH
MINE?"

NIDAVELLIR.

I DO NOT
KNOW WHY YOU
WOULD BRING
ME TO THE
DWARVES.

I AM NOT
IN NEED OF A
WEAPON FORGED.
I NEED MJOLNIR
RETURNED BEFORE
IT FALLS INTO
ILL HANDS.

THE DWARVES
OF NIDAVELLIR
CAN TRACK THEIR
CREATIONS ACROSS
THE STARS.

EACH WEAPON
THEY CAST IS
IMBUED WITH A
SMALL PART OF
THEIR VERY
SOULS.

THEY
BLEED FOR
THEIR WORK,
BOY.

FATHER...

AYE. I
SEE IT AS
WELL.

ARM
YOURSELF...



...FOR
THERE IS
WAR IN THE
FORGE.

THIS WAS NO WAR,
FATHER.

LOOK AT THE
VALRAVEN. NO BLOOD
ON THEIR TALONS. STILL
ON THEIR PERCH...
IMPOSSIBLE...

THEY
HAVE GUARDED
THE FORGE
FOR MILLENNIA...
AND YET--

KILLED IN
THE BLINK OF
A RAVEN GOD'S
EYE.

YOU'RE
RIGHT, BOY...
THIS WAS NO
WAR...



...THIS
WAS A
SLAUGHTER.

GODS,
NO...

THE
DWARVES...





...THE
DWARVES ARE
ALL DEAD.

AND THE
FORGE...IT'S...IT'S
BEEN SHATTERED
BUT...HOW? HOW
IS THIS--

BOY...

...LOOK AT THEM...LOOK
AT THEIR BODIES...AT
HOW THEY'VE BEEN...
CRUSHED...

YOU'VE
WIELDED IT
FOR EONS NOW...
IF ANYONE KNOWS...
IT WOULD BE
YOU...

MUST
I SAY
IT?

NO.
I SEE
IT...

THEY
WERE KILLED BY
A HAMMER.

BY
MJOLNIR.

TO BE CONTINUED!!!

QUOTH THE RAVENS: THE HUGINN & MUNINN SHOW

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MISSIVES "OKAY TO PRINT."



Oh my, what a terrible fate that has befallen the dwarves! Mjolnir has seemingly been used to cause much destruction. Let us take this time, Huginn, to answer the prayers of the mortals. The All-Father and Odin will surely need the extra strength!

Aye, I see darkness ahead, Muninn. I worry for the All-Father. I also worry about where that damned hammer could be! What if whoever has it chooses birds to be their next prey?

Huginn, while your little feet shake in fear, I shall get on with more important matters, like sending prayers to the All-Father since HE is the one in danger here!

Let me start off by saying one thing--GIANT MACHINE GUN CAT. If Michele Bandini is willing to create that, imagine what could be done with ravens? Death from above, evildoers!

I feel like the Odin/Thor beef and bickering has gone on long enough, and it's time to mend the family. Family is important, and a house divided can never stand, so I'm glad someone is taking matters into their own hands and finding a way. Personally, the "Thor's real mom is Phoenix" revelation isn't my canon. His mom is Freyja. Always been and always will be.

But that's the beauty of comics--I can go by my own canon, and there's nothing wrong with that at all. I'm just excited we get some more Frog of Thunder. Bring on the croak! You got this.

Billy Goreski
Glendale, AZ

Haha, yes, Huginn sure was terrified of that ferocious cat beast, Trjegull! Weren't you, Huginn?

Who wouldn't be?! It tried to nip at my wings a few times. And that was just with its mouth! I was lucky it didn't turn those guns on me! It would have made a quick snack out of me if dear Lady Freyja had not told it to stop!

Well, I would have done the same if you landed on my furry head to rest without asking!

It was soft, and I couldn't resist--we had flown a lot that day!

Billy of Glendale, you bring up a good point! We too wish for Odin and Thor to resolve their issues! For the good of Asgard and the good of their relationship. I am on your side with that, Billy!

Hmph! I say, let them fight it out! It does make for an interesting spectacle. Loki and I usually take bets as to who shall win!

I see where your loyalties lie! But Billy, do not fret, for though Freyja may not be Thor's birth mother (and honestly, we're skeptical of that flame bird's claim anyway!), she will forever hold a special place in Thor's heart!

Indeed--well said, Muninn!

Ah, why thank you, Huginn! 'Tis nice to hear a compliment from you every once in a while!

Hey, Huginn & Muninn! I need this mighty creative team to stay on this series for as long as possible! It has been fantastic--easily top three favorite THOR run in history for me so far! I don't know how it keeps getting bigger and better with every issue, but they are nailing this! My only complaint is that it takes too long until the next issue finally arrives!

Love that amazing new design for Freyja! Was there any specific inspiration Michele had for the new look? Also, any possibilities of us running into Enchantress in a future issue?

Frank Koelle
New York, NY

Indeed! It must be tough to wait such long periods to read the great tales of Thor! Mortals do view time as very important. You have so little of it--a month must feel like an eon.

Such fragile little beings, aren't they?

We would ask Donny and Nic to speed it up, but they do such wonderful work on the chronicles of the All-Father that we couldn't possibly ask more of them! Fortunately, the wait makes it all the better!

Aye, they are very detailed in making sure everything is done correctly! A wonderful team to have for the stories of the All-Father.

As for the design of Lady Freyja's new look, she does look like a true warrior, doesn't she? Her time with her estranged daughter Angela seems to have been good to her! And Michele made sure to add a Nordic rune into her bow design, like the one Thor has on his chestplate--a true connection between mother and son, I think!

Indeed! Freyja looked almost unrecognizable! Though she still gave me many head scratches when we saw her. I was happy to learn that her time away has not changed her kindness.

I did not receive any!

Oh, that's too bad... Perhaps someone said you didn't like her head scratches... Seems a shame though--for she gives the best ones.

Huginn! Were you this someone?! No wonder Lady Freyja will not acknowledge me! She thinks I have dishonored her!

More for me, I presume...

To whom it may concern (hopefully Mr. Cates),

I'm really enjoying this THOR run! I've got a few questions for you about it. First, this run is the first comic (besides the excellent KING THOR) in more than two decades to have the Odinson ascend to the throne of Asgard. I'm referring to Dan Jurgens' run, which (spoiler alert!) really explored a lot of different themes, such as Thor's loosening grip with humanity, his dissatisfaction with Midgard's many issues and his burdens as a king. I'd love to know if you've drawn any inspiration from that run and if Thor will have learned any lessons from his time as king way back then. In other words, what is different this time around?

Also, maybe I'm imagining things, but was Thor hitting Cap's shield with Mjolnir a nod to Jurgens' run?

Sincerely,
B.L.

Ah yes! The great Dan Jurgens! I do miss seeing him around the Asgardian library. He provided many great additions to the legacy of Thor!

Completely agree, Huginn! Master Donny has always looked back on the scribes and artists who have come before him--it's one of his great attributes! I do not know this answer outright, of course, for I had not the chance to ask Donny, but it is safe to assume that he has indeed looked upon the works of Dan Jurgens and taken inspiration from them!

Yes, Donny always has a stack of past Asgardian records with him! Why, once the stack was so tall, I was perched atop it and he had not a clue! It did give him a fright when I finally squawked at him. Made him throw his pen!

I can see how you "deserved" that. You must let him work!

He is good company, unlike others...Muninn.

Hmph! Well, I fear that is all the time we have for prayers. But do not fret, mortals--Thor shall be back, and let me tell you...I see many twists to this tale... You will want to stick around for them.

Haha, yes indeed, like what the hammer is--

Hush!!! Keep writing in, mortals! And remember to mark your missives OKAY TO PRINT. For if you want any chance of the All-Father reading these, they must be sealed correctly!

Until next time! For the truth about the God of Hammers is upon us!

NEXT ISSUE:



